

Press-Herald

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Flag Day, 1968

"We meet to celebrate Flag Day because this flag which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation.

"The choice is ours. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices whether in peace or war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us—speaks to us of the past, of the men and women who went before us and of the records they wrote upon it.

"We celebrate the day of its birth, and from its birth until now it has witnessed a great history, has floated on high the symbol of great events, of a great plan of life worked out by a great people."—Woodrow Wilson, June 14, 1917

Positive Action Needed

Opportunity can help solve many problems, and this summer we are all asked to help provide it for our youth.

The business community is being urged by the President's Council on Youth Opportunity to hire as many young people as possible this summer for productive work.

While it may not be possible to employ all those available, some of the teen-agers can be taught new skills by volunteer workers. Others can lend a hand to civic and social agencies in developing worthwhile recreational activity and entertainment.

Americans, all across the nation are joining the crusade for youth—but it will take the services of many sincere adults right in this area to lead in this constructive endeavor.

Call city hall—and volunteer your services to help make this summer a fruitful one for all the youngsters.

This is a positive way to help solve the "youth problem" with foresight rather than hindsight. This is the time for decision.

Opinions of Others

We have a government for the people, by the people, etc. A great many of these people complain about the taxes, how this is done and how that is done, but they themselves are just too lazy to go to the polls and vote for any changes. . . . We will have a presidential election in November, that might see more people going to the polls. We sincerely hope so.—*St. Mary's (Pa.) Press.*

There is one thing in this country that hasn't changed, for which we can be truly thankful, and that is that an elector can go in a voting booth, and mark his ballot without anyone having to know for whom he voted. Let's be sure we keep this most important phase of our democratic process.—*Fort Gibson (Miss.) Reveille.*

President Johnson . . . announced the formation of the National Alliance of Businessmen in order to help solve the problem of hard-core unemployment the country. . . . Private employers are in the best position to understand realistically the skills, experience and work habits an individual must possess. . . . The individual must provide the incentive and the determination to work.—*Waterloo (Iowa) Enterprise.*

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
Around graduation time, lots of speakers like to announce that it's up to young people to get the U.S. out of the awful mess adults got it into.

This line irks me a bit, since I think that there are a lot of things right with the world.

It's true that there is much injustice, poverty, inequality, violence, crime, and yes, even war, but a lot of people seem angry because the U.S. is not perfect. All these evils have existed since the beginning of recorded history, and if you take a close look, 20th Century men have taken massive steps toward solving them.

Of course, madmen along the way create diversions. Histories of most countries really are histories of a few rich or well-born people, with a majority of the population existing only to serve the whims of those leaders. Where, for instance, in history, compared with today's United States, have:

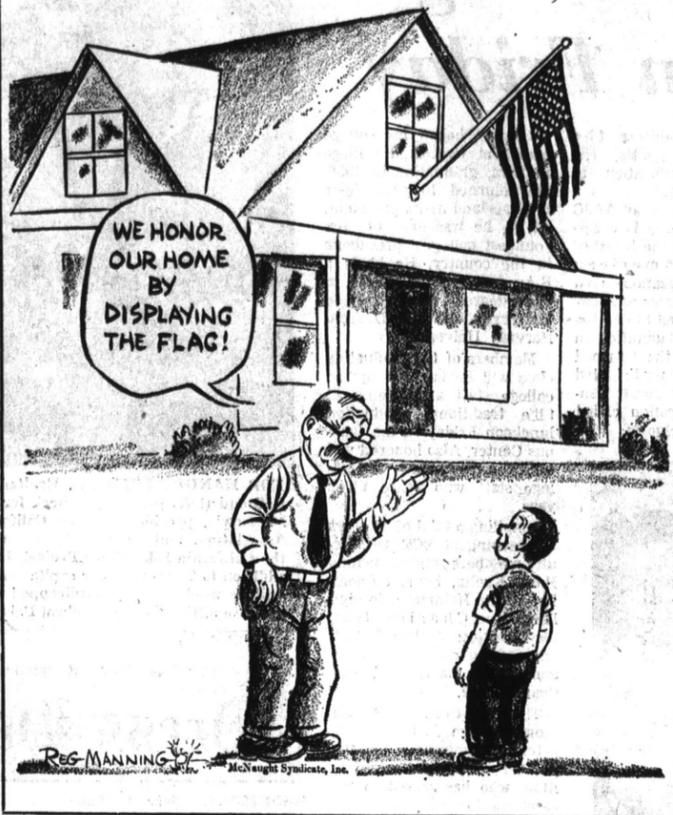
More people lived longer, more healthfully, and more comfortably?
More people had more opportunities for education and self-improvement?
More people had more choices — of occupation, of religion, of places to live, of leisure time activities, of government?
Our system is not perfect, but neither are the people who run it. It is, however, better than any other system ever tried on a large scale.

Since time began, men and women have sought the pot of gold or the fountain of youth or the geni in the bottle that would give them any three wishes. They have vainly chased a magic formula that would suddenly make life happy and trouble-free.

The world has become a better place because man has tried to improve what he had. My generation has made some giant setps forward; it has also made many mistakes.

We have a long way to go to make this the kind of world it should be, but we have come a long way in that direction — longer than it seems some dark nights. Yours for better tomorrow,
YOUR DAD

We Don't Fly It To Honor The Flag



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Air He Can't See Perturbs This Son of the Old Smog

My kind of thing: It's Charlotte Curtis' story about the L.A. guy arriving at S.F. Airport on a cool, crisp morning, looking around with a shudder and saying, "I get VERY nervous breathing air I can't see!" . . . Angry mother on the phone to this dept.: "Do you know that at . . . High School they're selling marijuana for FIFTY cents a cigarette when you can get it ANYWHERE for 35 cents?" . . . Over on Russian Hill one recent morning a ravishing nude girl could be seen espaliered atop a tiny English sportscar. For why? She was posing for a noted photographer in a second story window and—as in all the bad jokes—he asked her to "step back a little." Vroom, out the window and onto his Sprite. Damage to the Sprite: \$200. To the sprite: minor. . . . Walter Keane, the Botticelli of bug-eyed beauties, has sold his big Peninsula spread, moved into a Paris Left Bank apt., and may never return.

After reading the slashing critiques of Herbert Marcuse, Paul Goodman, and other prophets of the New Left, I would like to say a few kind words about The Establishment—and I will, soon as I can think of some. For starters, coffee breaks are nice, and unknown in totalitarian countries. More to come. . . . As for the existential revolution in Paris, it's noteworthy that the students tore up the paving stones to hurl, in the manner of the 1848 Commune. This, at least, can't happen in S.F., because most of our cobble streets (made of stones used as ballast in sailing ships) have disappeared, and subway construction is finishing off the remainder.

What do Gov. Reagan and New Letting Jerry Rubin

Morning Report:

After all the nasty things that have been said for years about the Central Intelligence Agency, the Voice of America, and the State Department, it is heartwarming to hear a kindly word about them from all places — Moscow.

Yes sir, right there in "Red Star," the newspaper of the Russian armed forces, we learn that Americans are "masters of ideological subversion," and what's going on in Czechoslovakia is cited as a case in point.

I'm not sure we had anything to do with it, but I think it's only fair that subverters in Washington take the credit the Russians seem so willing to give them. In fact, on the basis of the unsolicited testimonial from Moscow, I expect the CIA should be able to get its budget doubled. After all, who is a better judge of the success of subversion than Russia?

Abe Mellinkoff

have in common? Well, both were "very pleased" to receive 22 per cent of the vote, Reagan in Oregon, Rubin when he ran for Mayor of Berkeley. One slight difference being that Rubin's platform was for legalized pot, support of Black Power and opposition to the war in Vietnam. . . . Thanks to Rowan & Martin, you can't even watch old Nazi movies without cracking up. Something called "Hotel Berlin," star-

Report From Our Man
In San Francisco

ring Raymond Massey, hit the local late-later recently, and mighty gripping, too. Here this traitorous General is instructed to kill himself or be killed, and he chooses suicide, with one request: "I would prefer to die in my own castle." At which the Himmler-like Nazi looks straight at the camera and says "Verrrry interesting!" We all fell out of bed.

Escape: Ben Farlatti and his Virginia were listening to an educational TV program about an astral body "due to arrive in close proximity to the earth during the second week of June, causing some meteorological disturbances." meteorological disturbances." Virginia, brightly: "Well, it won't bother us—we'll be out of town that week."

More on M.B.: Dr. Joe Pace, the former mayor of San Jose, who's running for Congress on a peace platform, tried to phone a negotiator in the North Vietnam Embassy the other day — "I had some ideas for him" — and the following dialogue ensued, captured on tape . . . Overseas operator: "What do you want to call THEM for?" Don't you know it's against the law? Joe: "It's not against the

law." Overseas op: "What are you, a traitor or something?" Joe: "I'm just an American doctor who likes peace." Op: "Gee Whiz, I'd better get my supervisor. What's your connection with these people anyhow? You shouldn't be calling them. It just ain't NICE!" — the call finally went through—to the North KOREAN Embassy in Paris, where the operator gave Joe even less satisfaction.

Bay City beat: At Joe's in Hillsdale, Art Petri asked a young Marine: "Where you from?" "Well, I was born in Kansas," came the slow reply, "but I grew up in Vietnam." . . . The Factory, L.A.'s hottest night spot (as of yesterday, anyway), probably won't open a branch in S.F. after all. One of the owners, after looking over our town: "There just aren't enough people here who have to be seen out at night — at least for tax-deductible publicity purposes." Right. If a San Franciscan goes out a night it's because he wants to . . . Irene Watson to a girl wearing a calf-length midi: "Going through the mini-pause?" . . . And I suppose you heard about Nixon's nightmare. He dreamed he ran unopposed and came in second.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Letters of Poet Roethke: A 'Renaissance' Reading

The "generous letters" of Katherine Anne Porter so touched Theodore Roethke that, he wrote to her in 1948, "a fat tear rolled down my fat cheek." In 1931, Roethke wrote to Harriet Monroe, the founding editor of Poetry magazine, rather shyly asking her to pass judgment on his early work.

Throughout his career he sought opinions on and advice of other poets on his work. Louise Bogan, Stanley Kunitz, William Carlos Williams among them. To Stephen Spender, in 1961: "There's a comic poem which I hope very much you like. It's earthy, as you will see, the kind of poem that makes ordinary people laugh, vulgar in the original sense of the word. . . ."

Since his death at 55, the critical reputation of Theodore Roethke's works has soared. Considered by many

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Pending Bills Would Put Judges 'Beyond Politics'

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
County Supervisor

SACRAMENTO — an extensive state-wide drive for passage of SB 28 and SCA 2, the measures which will effectuate extensive changes in the system of selecting judges in California, is getting under way at the present time.

The drive is predicated on the assumption that the state legislature will pass both of the measures, although at the present time, the measures, by Sen. Don Grunsky, R-Santa Cruz, have not as yet even gotten through the senate.

The measures, in effect, remove the appointment of judges in this state from the governor and place selection in local commission, which make selections, and then make recommendations to the governor, after which he in fact names the judges.

The plan is one approved and urged by Gov. Ronald Reagan. It was a part of his election campaign more than a year ago.

Under the present system of selecting judges, they are named by the governor. Although it is not required by law, governors in the past have had a qualifications committee pass on recom-

mendations made for the post or applicants for judgeships.

The present system actually leaves the selections to be made on a political basis, and a governor if he so chose could appoint on a party line, rather than a qualifications basis.

To promote the proposed system, provided it clears the legislature which it undoubtedly will, a group known as the California Ju-

Review of Major News
On the Sacramento Scene

dicial Merit Plan Committee has been formed. More than 400 Californians, all of whom are leaders in public affairs, have joined in this committee to seek passage of the legislation.

The committee will be headed by William F. Branstetter, San Francisco business executive. He said the new plan stems from years of deliberation and evaluation by many of the state's best political, legislative, and legal minds.

"The principal result of the new plan," he said, "would be to assure that candidates for gubernatorial appointment on the California bench would carry the high-

est professional qualification and personal integrity."

Under the plan, the people would have the final say, however, as voter confirmation of appellate court and lower court judges would remain as present.

Getting the courts out of politics has been a problem in the state almost since the beginning. Under the old system, judges ran for office on much the same basis as candidates in other fields.

However, it was felt undignified for members of the bench to engage in political campaigns, and a gradual change was effected to the system of having the governor appoint judges and still retain some vestige of authority in the electorate.

This system was made possible because most judges fall vacant at times other than election times. Thus, if an appointment was made and ratified by the people, the final authority still rested with the people, as it does under the current proposed system of having a commission select candidates for appointment, recommend them to the governor, and then ratified by the people.

ROYCE BRIER

Theory on Student Revolt Offered for Consideration

Four years ago this November there was a sit-in at Sproul Hall on the Berkeley campus, and most of us were startled. It straightway attracted national, then world attention.

So you learn a lot in 3½ years. Yugoslav students rioted recently, demanding reforms at Belgrade University. Sixty were injured. Yugoslavia is a mild authoritarian state and Marshal Tito is not much of an ogre.

Student unrest is now a world-wide phenomenon, and simmers in Communist societies, where it boils over in bourgeois societies, which have always been dedicated to a measure of tolerance. In the latter it appears with some disorder in the 18-22 age bracket, and it has many tentacles. In the high school age in our country it brings long hair and other mannered renunciations of the adult world. It demands peace and opportunity and humanism, as opposed to technological stuffed-shirtism. It is enmeshed, of course, with the black struggle for equality, and it re-

jects the more noxious forms of adult arrogance and stupidity.

In the past years virtually every American college has witnessed some degree of discontent, and in some it has exploded in violence and shutdown of institutions. It prevails sporadically in Europe and is manifestly infectious. Students turned

Opinions on Affairs
of the World

Paris upside down and enlisted the help of unions, which struck the country and threatened the de Gaulle reign. This spread to Rome, then to Munich, Copenhagen, Brussels, and Stockholm. Even Spain had a flurry.

But student unrest has been endemic in Latin America for years. In Red China, Mao mobilized it to his purpose, Indonesia and India have had uprisings, and in Japan students riot against Vietnam and nuclear energy. No part of the young world is calm.

The students have their grievances dealing with the

educational system, but they also equate this with politics and peace, for students everywhere are fearful of meaningless wars instigated by their elders.

In this view, the Vietnam war, the only one existing at the moment, is a sharp incitement to student unrest, both in America and overseas. We are versed in the American student's abhorrence of being trapped and killed in a futile war which would confer no gain on anyone, even if it could be won.

But why the overseas students, who cannot be drafted for Vietnam? Following is a theory:

For upward of 150 years the American society has been a shining dream for those, young and old, who yearn for freedom and for intelligent self-management of their affairs. In three great wars the majority of the Americans were on the side of freedom, intelligence, and reason. Now they are not. Moreover, the war they are waging could, by a slip, imperil all mankind.

This loss of confidence in the American dream, and ample is so profound, so planetary in scope, as to reduce to triviality the "confidence Mr. Dean Rusk en-treats while he alludes to our 'commitments.'"

Quote

The lowering percentage of vehicles in violation appears to indicate that drivers in California are beginning to voluntarily keep their vehicles in proper mechanical condition and thus make the highways safer for all drivers. — CHP Commissioner Harold W. Sullivan.

The way we get things done around here is to put a package together and by working together rather than playing political king of the mountain.—Assemblyman William T. Bagley.

The Old Timer



"It's easier to follow the leader, than to lead the followers."